

Docket No.: 01 P 0524 US
App. No.: 09/863,935

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7-11, 15-17, 19-20 and 22 are now pending. Claims 1, 7, 9 and 15 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Patent Office rejected claims 1-2, 4, 9-10, 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,802,314 by Tullis et al. ("Tullis") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,742,763 by Jones ("Jones").

The Patent Office rejected claims 3, 5-8, 11 and 13-16, 18-19 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,802,314 by Tullis et al. ("Tullis") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,742,763 by Jones ("Jones") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,987 by Horowitz et al. ("Horowitz").

Applicants respectfully traverse both rejections. Applicants respectfully submit a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for any one of claims 1, 7, 9 and 15. To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Ryoka*, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974). See also *In re Wilson*, 165 U.S.P.Q. 494 (C.C.P.A. 1970).

Applicant respectfully submits claims 1, 5, 9 and 15 include elements which have not been disclosed by Tullis, Jones or Horowitz, individually or in combination. For example, claims 1, 5, 9 and 15 generally recite assigning a reference number to each message and wherein each message and any message attachment to each message is accessible through said reference number. Tullis, Jones and Horowitz, individually or in combination, fail to teach, disclose or suggest assigning a reference number to each message and wherein each message and any message attachment to each message is accessible through said reference number. For instance, Tullis describes a listing of messages in FIG. 3A and Column 7, lines 45-47, however, Tullis fails to disclose, teach

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or suggest assigning a reference number to each message and wherein each message and any message attachment to each message is accessible through said reference number. Consequently, an element of claims 1, 5, 9 and 15 has not been taught by Tullis, Jones or Horowitz, individually or in combination. Thus, claims 1-3, 7-11, 15-17, 19-20 and 22 should be allowed.

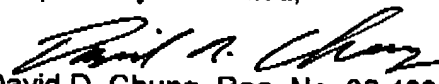
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are allowable, and it is respectfully requested that the entire application now be passed to formal allowance.

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